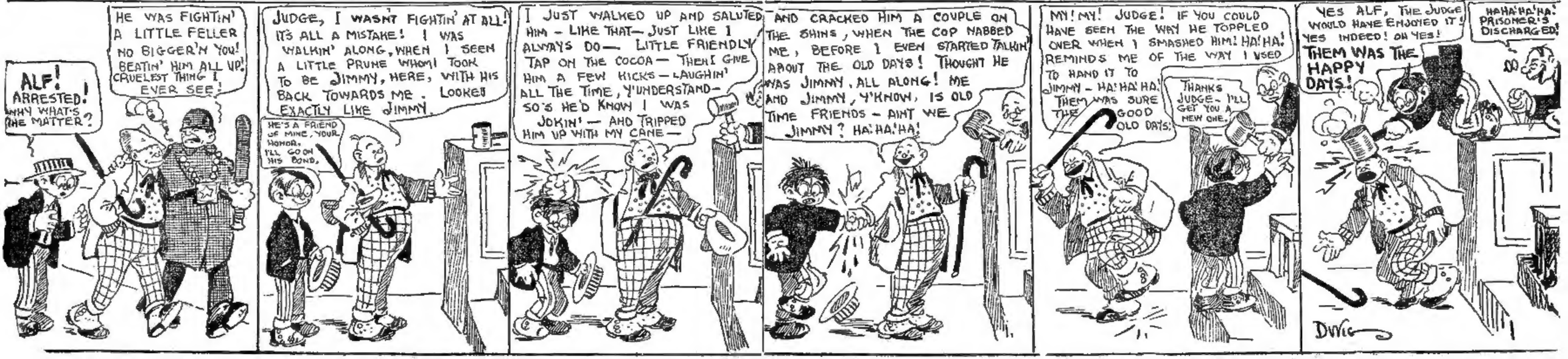
"Them Was the Happy Days!" By Clare Victor Dwiggins


ALF! ARRESTED! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HE WAS FIGHTIN' A LITTLE FELLER NO BIGGER'N YOU! BEATIN' HIM ALL UP! CRUELEST THING I EVER SEE!
JUDGE, I WASN'T FIGHTIN' AT ALL! IT'S ALL A MISTAKE! I WAS WALKIN' ALONG, WHEN I SEEN A LITTLE PRUNE WHOM I TOOK TO BE JIMMY, HERE, WITH HIS BACK TOWARDS ME. LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE JIMMY.
HE'S A FRIEND OF MINE, YOUR HONOR. I'LL GO ON HIS BOND.
I JUST WALKED UP AND SALUTED HIM - LIKE THAT - JUST LIKE I ALWAYS DO - LITTLE FRIENDLY TAP ON THE COCOA - THEN I GIVE HIM A FEW KICKS - LAUGHIN' ALL THE TIME, Y'UNDERSTAND - SO'S HE'D KNOW I WAS JOKIN' - AND TRIPPED HIM UP WITH MY CANE -
AND CRACKED HIM A COUPLE ON THE SHINS, WHEN THE COP NABBED ME, BEFORE I EVEN STARTED TALKIN' ABOUT THE OLD DAYS! THOUGHT HE WAS JIMMY, ALL ALONG! ME AND JIMMY, Y'KNOW, IS OLD TIME FRIENDS - AIN'T WE JIMMY? HA! HA! HA!
MY! MY! JUDGE! IF YOU COULD HAVE SEEN THE WAY HE TOPPLED OVER WHEN I SMASHED HIM! HA! HA! REMINDS ME OF THE WAY I USED TO HAND IT TO JIMMY - HA! HA! HA! THEM WAS SURE THE GOOD OLD DAYS!
THANKS JUDGE - I'LL GET YOU A NEW ONE.
YES ALF, THE JUDGE WOULD HAVE ENJOYED IT! YES INDEED! OH YES!
THEM WAS THE HAPPY DAYS!
HA HA! HA HA! PRISONER'S DISCHARGED!
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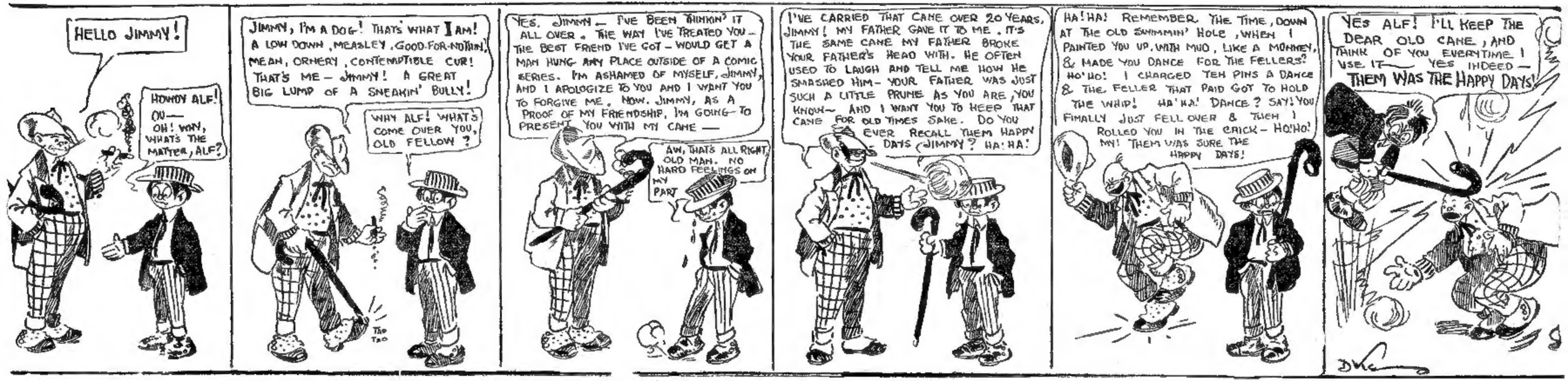
HELLO JIMMY!
HOWDY ALF! OU— OH! WAN, WHATS THE MATTER, ALF?
JIMMY, I'M A DOG! THATS WHAT I AM! A LOW DOWN, MEASLEY, GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN, MEAN, ORNERY, CONTEMPTIBLE CUR! THAT'S ME — JIMMY! A GREAT BIG LUMP OF A SNEAKIN' BULLY!
WHY ALF! WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, OLD FELLOW?
YES, JIMMY — I'VE BEEN THINKIN' IT ALL OVER. THE WAY I'VE TREATED YOU — THE BEST FRIEND I'VE GOT — WOULD GET A MAN HUNG ANY PLACE OUTSIDE OF A COMIC SERIES. I'M ASHAMED OF MYSELF, JIMMY, AND I APOLOGIZE TO YOU AND I WANT YOU TO FORGIVE ME. NOW, JIMMY, AS A PROOF OF MY FRIENDSHIP, I'M GOING TO PRESENT YOU WITH MY CANE —
AW, THAT'S ALL RIGHT, OLD MAN. NO HARD FEELINGS ON MY PART
I'VE CARRIED THAT CANE OVER 20 YEARS, JIMMY! MY FATHER GAVE IT TO ME. IT'S THE SAME CANE MY FATHER BROKE YOUR FATHER'S HEAD WITH. HE OFTEN USED TO LAUGH AND TELL ME HOW HE SMASHED HIM — YOUR FATHER WAS JUST SUCH A LITTLE PRUNE AS YOU ARE, YOU KNOW — AND I WANT YOU TO KEEP THAT CANE FOR OLD TIMES SAKE. DO YOU EVER RECALL THEM HAPPY DAYS, JIMMY? HA! HA!
HA! HA! REMEMBER THE TIME, DOWN AT THE OLD SWIMMIN' HOLE, WHEN I PAINTED YOU UP, WITH MUD, LIKE A MONKEY, & MADE YOU DANCE FOR THE FELLERS? HO! HO! I CHARGED TEN PINS A DANCE & THE FELLER THAT PAID GOT TO HOLD THE WHIP! HA! HA! DANCE? SAY! YOU FINALLY JUST FELL OVER & THEN I ROLLED YOU IN THE CRICK — HO! HO! MY! THEM WAS SURE THE HAPPY DAYS!
YES ALF! I'LL KEEP THE DEAR OLD CANE, AND THINK OF YOU EVERYTIME I USE IT — YES INDEED — THEM WAS THE HAPPY DAYS!

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OOF! GEMINY! GEE, JIMMY! DID I MISS IT AGAIN?
NO ALF! YOU HIT IT ALL RIGHT!
I'LL HIT THAT PILL IF I BREAK EVERY HAIR ON MY HEAD!
KEEP RIGHT AT IT, ALF!
HA! HA! HA!
REMINDS ME A GOOD DEAL OF THE WAY WE USED TO PLAY "SHINNY ON THE ICE" BACK IN THE OLD DAYS, JIMMY. HA! HA! THAT WAS REAL SPORT WAS N'T IT?
TOO BAD, ALF! THAT WAS A NASTY FALL!
REMEMBER THE TIME WE WAS PLAYIN' ON OUTCALT'S POND, AND I HIT YOU ON THE SHINS & YOU GOT MAD & CALLED ME AN OLD CHICKEN & I SMASHED YOUR EYE & CUT A HOLE IN THE ICE & DIPPED YOU IN & PULLED YOU OUT AND DIPPED YOU IN AGAIN— HA! HA! HA!—
SURE! I RECALL THE INCIDENT
YES— I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN THAT LITTLE JOKE OF YOURS, ALF—
YES YOU'RE RIGHT— THEM WAS THE HAPPY DAYS!
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